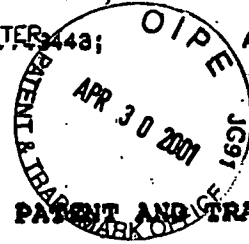


Sent By: APR 16 '01 09:07AM, POSTAGING DEV CENTER, 443;

Apr- 12:46PM;

Page 2/3



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Williamson, et al

Examiner: P. Prebilic

Serial No: 09/306,448

Art Unit: 3738

Filed: 05/06/99

Title: MEANS AND METHOD OF REPLACING A
HEART VALVE IN A MINIMALLY
INVASIVE MANNER

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. Section 1.132

Dear Sir:

1. Mark Ortiz declares as follows.
2. I am the co-inventor of the subject matter of the patent application identified above as Serial Number 09/306,448.
3. I specifically contributed to the details associated with the elastic limits associated with the fasteners as well as the tool for attaching the flexible sewing cuff to the patient, including the housing and the fastener handling means on the tool for forcing a fastener into the patient from one side of the flexible sewing cuff and the patient's tissue to attach the flexible sewing cuff to the patient and deforming the fastener beyond its elastic limit into a cuff-retaining shape.
4. I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true; that all statements made herein on information and belief are believed to be true; and further, that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or

RECEIVED
MAY - 2 2001
TC 3700 MAIL ROOM

Sent By: Skye Management, Inc.;
APR 16 '01 09:07AM; PACKAGING DEV CENTER 3443;

Apr-18-01 12:45PM;

Page 3/3

imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the above-identified application and any patent resulting therefrom.


Mark Ortiz

Date: 4/4/01